

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 123427  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123427

NODIS

FOR DR. Z. BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 7675 ACTION SECSTATE MAY 27, 1977

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7675

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR SUPPLY: TARAPUR: CONVERSATION WITH  
PRIME MINISTER

REF: STATE 118926

1. I CARRIED OUT THE PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTIONS ON NUCLEAR  
MATTERS IN A TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER DESAI MAY 27 AND I  
BELIEVE THAT THE OUTCOME WAS QUITE SATISFACTORY. THE PRIME  
MINISTER ACCEPTED WITHOUT HESITATION BOTH OF OUR PRE-CONDI-  
TIONS FOR TARAPUR RE-SUPPLY, AND I HOPE THAT THAT CAN PROCEED  
PROMPTLY. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE DISCUSSION WAS PARTICULARLY  
GOOD. DESAI WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED TO BE IN COMMUNICATION  
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WITH THE PRESIDENT AND EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESIDENT AND HE  
"BELIEVED IN PRACTICALLY THE SAME VALUES" (HE LATER SAID  
THAT BOTH HAD A DEEP FAITH IN GOD AND ASKED HOW COULD THERE  
BE ANY DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN THEM).

2. I MADE THE PRESENTATION ALONG THE LINES OF MY INSTRUCTIONS  
AND LATER LEFT A PAPER SUMMARIZING THEM, WHICH I AM TRANS-

MITTING IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE. I SAID THE US WANTED REASSURANCE THAT, AS WE HAVE AGREED ALREADY, INDIA WOULD OBSERVE SAFEGUARDS FOR US NUCLEAR FUEL AND NOT USE IT FOR A DEVICE. I MENTIONED THAT SOME AMERICANS WERE SUSPICIOUS BECAUSE OF THE 1974 EXPLOSION. DESAI REACTED WITH EMOTION, SAYING THERE WAS NO RPT NO QUESTION THAT INDIA WOULD STAND BY ITS AGREEMENTS. INDIA, HE SAID, WOULD CARRY OUT ALL SAFEGUARDS IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN SELF-RESPECT. HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION OF THE INDIAN EXPLOSION. MRS. GANDI, HE SAID, HAD NOT BEEN WISE IN THE WAY SHE HAD CARRIED IT OUT. SHE HAD NOT INTENDED TO DEVELOP WEAPONS BUT WAS "POLITICALLY-MINDED". SHE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN CANADA INTO HER CONFIDENCE. DESAI SAID HE PLANNED TO SPEAK TO PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU ABOUT THIS IN LONDON.

3. DESAI THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS NOT SURE THE EXPLOSION HAD BEEN NECESSARY. HE DECLARED THAT HE WAS NOT GOING TO AUTHORIZE ANOTHER EXPLOSION EVEN FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, BUT IF HE HAD TO DO IT, HE WOULD DO IT PUBLICLY. HE LATER SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF HAVING ANOTHER EXPLOSION; EVEN IF IT WAS PROPOSED HE WOULD CONSULT VERY CAREFULLY - AND CONSULT WITH THE US - BEFORE PROCEEDING. HE ADDED THAT HE ALSO DID NOT LIKE "THIS SPACE BUSINESS" AND SAID HE WAS RECONSIDERING WHAT TO DO ABOUT INDIA'S SPACE PROGRAM. INDIA MUST CONCENTRATE ON FEEDING PEOPLE.

4. WHEN I INDICATED WE WOULD LIKE TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON TARAPUR AND NON-PROLIFERATION, HE WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREED. HE SAID EVEN IF THE US REFUSED TO SUPPLY FUEL FOR TARAPUR, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE WOULD AGREE TO DISCUSSIONS BUT HE COULD NOT HAVE SUGGESTED THIS FIRST HIMSELF; HE WAS THEREFORE GLAD WE HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT.

5. ON THE SUBJECT OF NON-PROLIFERATION, DESAI SPOKE OF HIS GREAT CONCERN ABOUT THE DANGER OF CONTINUED SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, STATING CATEGORICALLY THAT HE WOULD NOT TOUCH SUCH WEAPONS AND THAT INDIA WOULD REMAIN TRUE TO ITS WORD IN THIS REGARD. HE SPOKE VIGOROUSLY ABOUT HIS HOPES FOR OUR STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS, SAYING THAT IF THEY WENT WELL HE THOUGHT CHINA WOULD HAVE TO FALL IN LINE.

6. DESAI ALSO COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY. HE SAID INDIA DID NOT WANT TO KEEP ITS NUCLEAR CAPABILITY SECRET BUT DESIRED TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO WANTED IT FOR PEACEFUL USES. HE CAREFULLY EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT INDIA DID NOT WANT TO PASS ON IN ANY WAY KNOWLEDGE WHICH WOULD BE MIS-USED.

7. I BELIEVE THIS INITIAL TALK WITH DESAI HAS SUCCESSFULLY  
CARRIED US THROUGH THE FIRST STEP IN WHAT WILL BE DIFFICULT  
NEGOTIATIONS. I WILL SEE FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA TOMORROW  
TO GET INTO GREATER DETAIL.  
GOHEEN UNQTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**To:** WHITE HOUSE  
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